

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 95%

Generally cloudy sky with Light rain

Sensex 81,159

Nifty 24,890

Gold 1,14,440

Silver 1,42,600

Dollar 88.67

Euro 103.10

GBP 119.31

Can private security personnel do as good a job at guarding city's lakes as home guards do? Civic agency seems to want to give it a shot, but lake activists not so sure of plan to split responsibilities

CLOCK IS TICKING FOR LAKE WATCH

Guards' contract ends on Sept 30, but they haven't received allowance for 4 months

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Speculations around the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) doing away with the existing security system of home guards manning Bengaluru lakes are not totally unfounded. The security system at the city's lakes is set to undergo a makeover under the new regime.

According to GBA officials, private security guards will soon replace 50% of the current home guard positions to ensure security at lakes.

"We will bring in an equal mix (50-50) of home guards and private security personnel to man the city lakes. The decision has been taken to ensure better attendance of security personnel at lakes in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>



Murky waters of Basavanapura Lake on Bannerghatta Road

Our three-month contract ends on September 30. We have not received any request for renewal from the city corporation offices

—Director General and Commandant
General Office, Home Guards

CITY / PAGE 4

Blue line blues

58-km Blue Line that was supposed to be ready last year will start full operations only by 2027



CITY / PAGE 11

Armed & dangerous



To stop weapon wielders, police plan to open rowdy sheets against those booked under Arms Act

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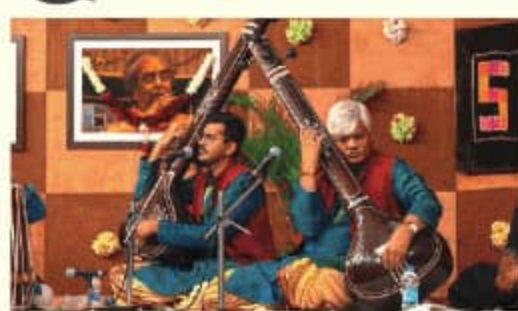
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THINGS TO DO

01 Raga revival



'Dhrupad Utsav', an annual festival in the city, now in its ninth edition, celebrates, preserves, and promotes the 5000-year-old

Dhrupad tradition of Indian classical music. This edition is a tribute to Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar, and Pandit Ramakant Gundecha. **Where:** Alliance Francaise de Bangalore (September 26, 28) and The Bangalore Room (September 27), 6 pm onwards

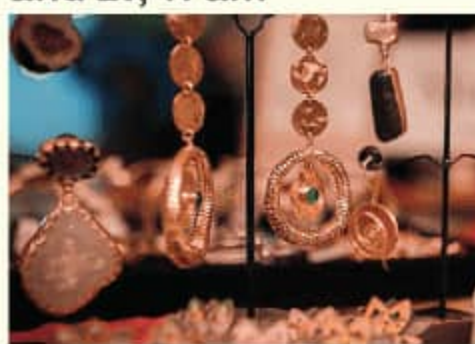
02 Devotion in motion



Rasika presents 'Sampreeti – Dance of Delight', a Bharatanatyam recital by Priya Selvarathinavel, disciple of Natyacharyas Sri Kiran Subramanyam and Smt Sandhya Kiran. The programme brings a joyous blend of rhythm, expression, and devotion. **Where:** Telugu Vignana Samithi, Vyalikaval; **When:** September 27, 6 pm

03 Buy the way

Our Better Planet is organising Conscious Souk – a thoughtfully curated sustainable shopping experience celebrating home grown brands from across the country. The event features sarees, jewellery, apparel, home decor, gifts and much more. **Where:** Raintree, Sankey Road; **When:** September 26 and 27, 11 am



04 Tune in

Led by acclaimed guitarist, composer, and educator Ravi Iyer, The Ravi Iyer Fusion Quartet will be performing, bringing together the depth of Hindustani and Carnatic classical traditions with the energy of rock and the improvisational flair of jazz. **Where:** Windmills, Whitefield; **When:** Sept 26 and 27, 7 pm

05 Brush with divinity

Mythic Matrices, a landmark solo exhibition by acclaimed contemporary artist Seema Kohli, presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art, offers a focused retrospective of 20 pivotal years from Kohli's expansive practice. **Where:** National Gallery of Modern Art, Vasanth Nagar; **When:** August 26 to September 26

Delayed diagnosis a major hurdle in childhood cancer care

Doctor highlights lack of paediatric cancer screening unlike adults, says early detection, timely treatment, and strong family support are key to improve survival outcomes

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September is globally recognised as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time to spotlight the urgent health challenges faced by children diagnosed with cancer. While there are screening tests to detect cancer at an early stage in adults, the same is not true for the paediatric population, and as a result, treatment often gets delayed.

According to reports, leukaemia is the most common cancer among both boys and girls, contributing to over 40 per cent of paediatric cancers in boys and more than one-third in girls. This is followed by lymphomas, brain and nervous system tumours, bone cancers, and kidney cancers, with brain tumours being slightly more common in girls than boys. These patterns underline the need for specialised diagnostic and treatment facilities for haematological and neurological childhood cancers in the state.

Dr T Naveen, Director (Additional Charge), Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, said, "At KMIO, the state's apex regional cancer centre, 601 childhood cancer cases (0–19 years) were registered in 2024, representing 4.6 per cent of the total cancer caseload. This reflects the significant paediatric oncology workload and KMIO's critical role in delivering comprehensive cancer care for children



across Karnataka."

Globally, out of 18.7 million new cancer cases, about 2.7 lakh (1.5 per cent) occur in children aged 0–19 years, and childhood cancers account for 1.4 per cent of all cancer-related deaths worldwide. In India, 14 lakh new cancer cases are reported annually, of which 35,240 (2.5 per cent) occur in children, contributing to 1.8 per cent of cancer-related deaths nationally.

In Karnataka, there are 87,855 new cancer cases each year, including 1,882 (2.1 per cent) occurring in children, with childhood cancers accounting for 1.4 per cent of cancer deaths in the state. In Bengaluru city specifically, 15,812 new cancer cases are reported annually, with 339 (2.1 per cent) in children, and childhood cancers represent 1.5 per cent of cancer-related deaths.

Dr Arun Kumar AR, professor and Head of Department, Department of Paediatric Oncol-

ogy, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, said that while lifestyle factors like smoking, diet, and inactivity are known contributors to cancer in adults, the underlying causes of cancer in children remain largely unclear. "For paediatric cases, it is more difficult to determine the causes. Factors may include bacterial and viral infections, fetal exposure to ultrasound scans, consumption of preserved or junk food, and in rural populations, chronic exposure of pesticides and insecticides," said Dr Kumar, adding that genetics also play a role—for instance, the RB gene in retinoblastoma, the WT1 gene in Wilms tumour, and the EWSR1 gene in Ewing sarcoma. "Overall, childhood cancers have multifactorial causes," he said.

Dr Kumar further pointed out that unlike adults, there is no screening for paediatric cancers like cervical pap smears or mammography. "Often, children

present with fever or neck swelling, which is initially treated as a common illness. By the time the cancer is identified, the disease may have already spread," said Dr Kumar, while highlighting that early detection is critical for good survival outcomes. He stated that childhood cancer is curable in the majority of cases, provided there is early detection, timely treatment, and strong family support.

Children often present with symptoms like fever or neck swelling, initially mistaken for common illness, often resulting in delayed diagnosis and progression of disease, says doctor

On September 20, the Department of Paediatric Oncology organised an awareness programme for survivors, doctors, paramedical staff, patients' attendants and the general public in the institution's auditorium. The event was attended by the administration, including Dr Avinash Menon Rajendran, Dr T Naveen, Director, and other HoDs.

As part of its ongoing efforts, KMIO conducts various awareness initiatives, including school and community awareness drives, training sessions for healthcare professionals, screening and counselling camps, and survivor and caregiver support programmes.

26 lakh students yet to link Aadhaar, scholarship delays reported

Nearly 26 lakh school students across Karnataka are yet to have their Aadhaar details linked with the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS), creating hurdles in accessing scholarships and other welfare schemes. Of the 1.04 crore students enrolled from Classes 1 to 10, about 78 lakh have successfully completed Aadhaar verification, while 18 lakh remain pending due to technical issues and discrepancies, and another 8 lakh face mismatches between names in school records and Aadhaar.

Officials revealed that around 2.6 lakh students have not even applied for

scholarships under the Social Welfare Department due to the lack of Aadhaar linkage. The Education Department has instructed schools and nodal officers to expedite the process by conducting e-KYC, biometric verification, and awareness drives for parents, stressing that mismatched names and spelling errors during school admission are the major reasons for delays. "Government school students' Aadhaar linking is progressing swiftly, but the process is slower in private schools, which is affecting student benefits. We have directed authorities to complete the process at the earliest," said



Dr KV Trilokchandra, Commissioner, Department of School Education. Parents' consent remains mandatory for Aadhaar-SATS linking, with schools urged to correct student names in records to match Aadhaar for seamless integration. — BMB

SORRBA to host 17th Durga Puja with jungle-themed celebrations

The Sarjapur Outer Ring Road Bengali Association (SORRBA) will hold its 17th Durga Puja from September 28 to October 2, 2025, at Samskruthi Pavilion, Sarjapur Road. For the third year in a row, the event will focus on Pancha Durga — five forms of the Goddess Durga — incorporating elements of South Indian tradition. The five deities to be worshipped include Gayatri Devi, Bala Tripura Sundari Devi, Raj Rajeswari Devi, Annapoorna Devi, and Durga Devi.

Following last year's palace-themed setup, this year's puja will be held in a jungle-themed tem-

ple environment. The decor will include design elements based on stone structures and ancient temple settings.

In addition to the rituals, the event will feature a food court with a range of regional and international cuisines including Bengali, Korean, Chinese, Oriental, and North Indian options. Items such as fuchka, chaat, chole bhature, and Nawabi dishes will also be available.

The cultural programme will include performances by a Zee Saregamapa finalist, folk presentations, a musical tribute to Salil Chaudhury, and a drama



This year's puja will be held in jungle-themed temple environment, including design elements based on stone structures and ancient temple settings

production. Music and dance will include selections from AR Rahman's compositions. Further information on the event, schedule, and membership is available at www.sorrba.org or by calling +91 84317 60322. — BMB

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Construction delays hit Blue Line corridor

Bengaluru's 58-km Blue Line metro corridor, which was expected to be ready last year, will now open in phases and be fully operational only by 2027

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Bengaluru's long-awaited 58-km Blue Line metro corridor, connecting Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), will not be ready any time soon. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has revised deadlines and plans to open the route in three phases, pushing the full launch to 2027. Originally scheduled for completion last year, delays in land acquisition, legal matters, and utility issues have forced the extension. The line, which began construction in 2021, is expected to significantly ease congestion along the Outer Ring Road stretch between KR Puram and Silk Board, home to more than 500 IT firms and nearly 950,000 employees. Once operational, it is projected to provide a vital transport lifeline for both commuters and air passengers.

According to BMRCL officials, the Central Silk Board-KR Puram stretch is targeted for completion by September 2026. The Hebbal-Airport segment is expected by June 2027,

while the KR Puram-Hebbal section will follow by December 2027. Officials noted that if the entire corridor were opened in one go, the timeline could slip to 2028, hence the phased approach.

The ₹15,131-crore corridor is being executed in two major packages. Phase 2A covers the 19.75-km Silk Board-KR Puram elevated corridor with 13 stations and a depot at Baiyappanahalli. Phase 2B extends 38.44 km from KR Puram to KIA, with 16 stations, an elevated design, a depot at Shettigere, and an underground station at the airport.

Causes of delay

Officials cited multiple hurdles, including litigation over tree felling and relocation, redesigning pillars to minimise road usage, shifting GAIL gas pipelines, and placing high-tension power lines underground between Horamavu and HBR Layout. In addition, flyover and underpass works around Hebbal and KR Puram have progressed slowly. Embassy Group had initially committed to fund the Bettahalasuru station near Trumpet Junction in 2020 but later withdrew, forcing BMRCL to drop the station altogether.



Work on the Blue Line corridor faces ongoing delays

Officials admit multiple bottlenecks have pushed Bengaluru's airport metro back by nearly two years. The ₹15,131-crore line will now be executed in three stages

Metro experts have urged BMRCL to prioritise stations at Nagawara, Kempapura, Hebbal, Yelahanka, and the Trumpet interchange, while also expediting station construction at Doddanekundi, ISRO, Maratha-

halli, Ibbaluru, and Silk Board. They stressed that electrical and mechanical installations should proceed in parallel with civil works to avoid further delays.

Senior BMRCL officials assured that they are in constant coordination with contractors to resolve bottlenecks. Unlike other lines, the Blue Line is being built using longer "U-girders" instead of box girders, which also affects the pace of execution. Despite these challenges, BMRCL maintains that the project will adhere to the revised schedule and gradually bring relief to Bengaluru's overburdened traffic network.

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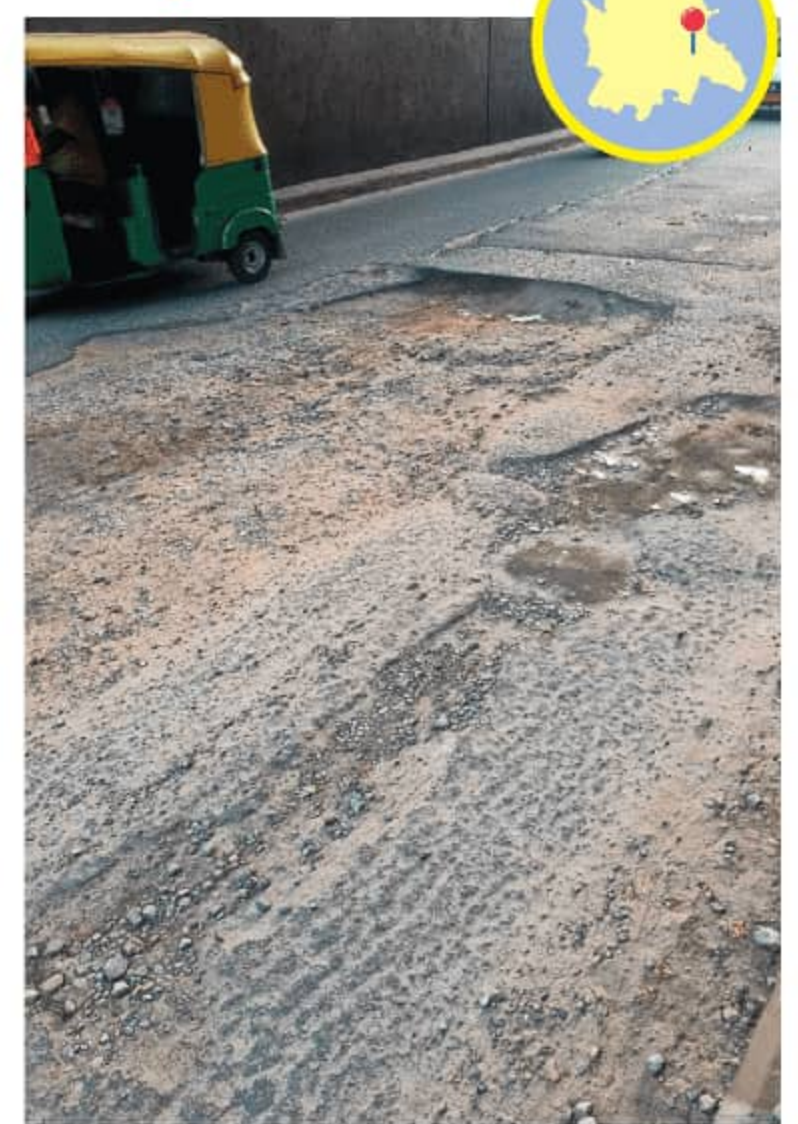
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Path peril Madhavnagar



Madhavnagar (near Race Course Road, Vasanthnagar Ward) has endured four months of terrible, broken roads, making life difficult for residents.

Street havoc Kalingarao Road



Kalingarao Road is damaged by worn-out, neglected sections.

Dumping nightmare Narayanapura Road



Garbage trucks have turned the newly laid 750m K Narayanapura Road into a dumping and sorting area.

'Our Mobility, Our Voice': young commuters call for change

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Frustrated by hours-long commutes, Bengaluru schoolchildren have launched the 'Our Mobility, Our Voice' campaign to tackle the city's worsening traffic, driven by population growth, rising private vehicle use, and poor infrastructure. Led by Inventure Academy, the initiative focuses on chronic bottlenecks along State Highway 35 (Whitefield-Sarjapur), a notorious stretch that leaves commuters stranded.

Recently, Sohan, a Year 12 student, shared his experience of leaving school at 4:30 pm, only to spend two and a half hours stuck in traffic. In his video, posted on the campaign's social media page, he highlighted the major bottleneck along the Varthur-Sarjapur stretch, which alone took nearly an hour. Eventually, he decided to get off the bus and take the metro. Sohan noted that the long commute, especially during mid-term exams, can negatively affect students' academic performance.

The initiative takes a multifaceted approach. The Student Council launched a campaign to raise awareness about traffic challenges and encouraged teachers to discuss these issues in classrooms, helping students brainstorm solutions and understand the broader impact on the city. The campaign also runs a social media drive on Instagram and Twitter, inviting citizens to share experiences and amplify the message.

Nooraine Fazal, Co-Founder and CEO, said, "We began Our Voice in 2014 to help children



Students mapping potholes as part of the Our Mobility, Our Voice campaign

Long commutes, potholes, and crowded buses are the focus of Our Mobility, Our Voice, a student-led campaign in Bengaluru

understand their rights and responsibilities. Article 12 of the UNCRC states that children have the right to participate in matters affecting them. In 2024, Our Mobility, Our Voice was started after forming the Student Council. We began working on traffic concerns and met officials including former Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth and current DIG and Joint Commissioner Karthik Reddy."

Following this, Reddy conducted questionnaires in nearby schools on traffic issues and intervened to ease congestion along the Varthur-Dommasandra stretch. "Earlier, it took nearly an

hour to travel 4 km from Inventure Academy to Prestige Lakeside Habitat. After deploying more officials and restricting truck movement, commute time has reduced to 10-12 minutes. This may also be partly due to exam season and Dasara holidays, but police intervention has helped considerably," said Fazal. She added that around 30 schools along SH-35 face serious congestion, with nearly 500 school buses and heavy private traffic. The campaign advocates greater use of BMTc buses, completion of road widening projects, suburban rail services, and timely metro project completion to encourage public transport use.

Supporting the initiative, other schools have also joined. Shoba Mary Jacob, a counsellor, said, "My commute to Deens Academy, Gunjur, has been harrowing. Rubbish piles, potholes, and unstable buses make travelling deeply concerning."

The Student Council has been central to this effort, proving children can meaningfully contribute as stakeholders. Year 12 student Lasya Mohan Varma, who led the initiative, said, "We aim to amplify students' voices across Bengaluru. In a recent survey along a 650-metre stretch of Varthur-Sarjapur Road, we identified 139 potholes and are compiling a report estimating their impact on vehicle speed. We've created visuals including a Google Maps map with pothole locations, a heat map, and a 3D map showing how potholes every 50 metres affect traffic. We plan to release the report soon and are working to form a student federation to coordinate bus timings, raise awareness, and encourage public transport use."



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Vandals strike

Tension gripped Byadarahalli and Annapoorneshwari Nagar after miscreants went on a vandalism spree in the early hours of Thursday, damaging more than 30 vehicles parked along the roadside.

According to police, a group of men, dressed in hooded sweatshirts and armed with clubs and sharp

weapons, roamed through Valmiki Nagar and Muddinapalya, smashing windshields and windows of vehicles. The incident came to light when residents woke up to find their vehicles damaged. They alerted the police. Officers have collected CCTV footage from nearby streets to identify the culprits. "We have got some clues. Efforts are on to track the accused," an officer said. —BMB

Hoteliers flag unchanged input costs despite GST relief

The Karnataka State Hoteliers' Association (KSHA) said on Thursday that passing on Goods and Services Tax (GST) benefits to consumers has become difficult, citing unchanged taxes on LPG cylinders and property rents as key obstacles.

KSHA President GK Shetty told BM that the hotel industry welcomed the central government's decision to reduce the GST on many goods to benefit the common man. "Our consumers have been enquiring as to when the prices of food items and room tariffs will be reduced. I



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want to make it clear that hoteliers cannot reduce the prices of food items unless the government provides some relief to the hotel industry," said Shetty.

Shetty pointed out that many items like vegetables and meat were already under 0% GST, leaving little room for further cost reduction. He also highlighted that hoteliers who run their businesses from rented buildings are paying 18% GST on the rent they pay. "The majority

of restaurants and hotels are run in rented buildings. If the GST is reduced to 5% on the rent, then we can pass on the benefits to our consumers," he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Krishna Raju SP of Nisarga Grand said that hoteliers have to use a large number of items to prepare food. "The GST, except three or four items, remains the same on most of the items used for cooking in hotels," Krishna Raju said.

Bangalore Hotels Association Honorary President PC Rao said the government has reduced the GST on hotel rooms below Rs 7,500 per day from 12% to 5%. He also noted that while the GST on ghee has been reduced from 12% to 5%, it is not a primary ingredient in hotel operations and therefore offers limited relief to the industry. "The main components are the LPG and rent," he said.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Festivity meets the flavours of Bengal at Durgotsav

As the season of festivity arrives, Novotel Bengaluru Outer Ring Road is once again set to celebrate the colours, flavours, and traditions of Bengal with its much-loved annual culinary showcase —Durgotsav – The Bengali Food Festival, at The Square. Now in its fourth edition, following three years of resounding success, the festival has established itself as a landmark event on the hotel's cultural calendar, eagerly awaited by guests and



patrons alike.

A tradition beyond taste
For Novotel, food is far more

than just flavour — it is a living expression of heritage, community, and celebration. Durgotsav embodies that very philosophy. Each year, the hotel invites a renowned chef from Kolkata, the beating heart of Bengali culture, to ensure that the festival's menu reflects the region's culinary traditions in their truest form. This commitment to authenticity has made the festival a warm reminder of home for many, and an exciting discovery for those eager to experience Bengal's legendary flavours.

A culinary journey through Bengal

Guests at The Square can look forward to a diverse spread that mirrors the breadth and richness of Bengal's kitchens. Appetites are awakened with Kolkata's iconic street delights, from chaats bursting with tang to smoky rolls reminiscent of busy evening stalls. The main feast then brings forth the quintessential



dishes that define Bengali cuisine. Delicacies such as Ilish Jhol and Bhapa Ilish highlight the region's enduring love for hilsa, while Shorshe Bata Maach offers the piquancy of mustard in every bite. Meat lovers can indulge in the depth of flavour that Kosha Mangsho brings, alongside the velvety coconut milk richness of Chingri Malai Curry. For vegetarian diners, a selection of traditional specialties — paired with soft luchis or delicate, fragrant rice — creates a spread that is both comforting and festive. A grand Bengali meal would be incomplete without its

famed desserts, and Durgotsav rises to the occasion with classics such as Rosogolla, Sandesh, and Mishti Doi — sweet notes that perfectly conclude the journey.

Celebrating community and culture

More than just a festival of food, over the years, Durgotsav has grown into a celebration of nostalgia, community, and belonging. For many guests, it is a chance to relive cherished memories of home during Durga Puja, while for others, it is an introduction to a culture known for its warmth, vibrancy, and generosity. The Square comes alive with festive décor, aromas, and joyful conversations, capturing the essence of Bengali hospitality in every detail. Over the years, the festival has become one of the most celebrated highlights of Novotel Bengaluru's cultural programming, one that staff and patrons look forward to with equal enthusiasm.

When: September 26 (dinner service) to October 2 (lunch and dinner)
Where: The Square, Novotel Bengaluru Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bengaluru
Timings: 12.30–3 pm (lunch) and 7–11 pm (dinner)

Jumbo demand for festival rankles conservationists

Directive to send six camp elephants for Hubballi's Ambaari Utsav faces strong criticism, with conservationists raising serious concerns over welfare, legality, ecology, and dangerous precedents

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A letter from the office of Karnataka's Chief Wildlife Warden directing Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) officials to presumably send six elephants to the Ambaari Utsav in Hubballi in November has created a stir among wildlife conservationists.

The communication, dated September 11, was sent to the Conservator of Forests in Shivamogga and Canara circles, as well as the Deputy Conservator of Forests and the Director of Nagarhole Wildlife Division. Officials have been asked to urgently submit a report on the number of elephants available in their camps, their health, and the logistics required to transport them. Wildlife experts and activists have strongly opposed the move, arguing that camp elephants should not be diverted for private celebrations or religious processions outside the state's official Mysore Dasara festivities. They say such use undermines the welfare of the animals, who are classified as Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Under the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, elephants from Karnataka's camps cannot be used in private processions. Only elephants brought from other states with proper transport permits may participate. The regulation, activists say, was introduced to safeguard animal welfare.

"Elephants in camps live in near-natural conditions, with shade and water available. If they are moved to Hubballi, a dry region 300-400 km away, they will be forced to walk on



Experts argue that using camp elephants in private festivities risks misuse of the Wildlife Protection Act and sets dangerous precedents

A government directive to provide elephants for Hubballi's Ambaari Utsav has drawn protests from conservationists, who warn of animal suffering, legal violations, and dangerous precedents threatening Karnataka's captive elephant welfare

hot tarred roads under loud noise and blazing sun. This is not in their best interest," said Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher with the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

Conservationists add that interpreting the 2022 amendment to Section 43 of the Wildlife Act—which permits elephants to be used for "religious or any other purpose"—as a blanket allowance is misleading. They stress the intent was to accommodate state-led cultural or religious traditions, such as Mysore Dasara, not privately

organised events.

"If this request is entertained, it will open the floodgates. Every private event or religious procession will want elephants, and the department will come under pressure to allow them," said one conservationist, requesting anonymity.

Another concern raised is the possible increase in capture of wild elephants. Camps, they say, were established to use elephants to help mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Diverting them for festivals would only encourage further captures, causing stress to wild herds.

According to a senior KFD official, the directive to collect information was issued under instructions from the State Government. However, he clarified the department does not intend to send elephants for the Ambaari Utsav.

"The State Government asked us to identify six elephants, but the department will submit its recommendation against it. Camp elephants are not trained for such events, and there is a government order prohibiting their participation in private processions or religious celebrations," the official said. For now, conservationists remain watchful, urging the government to stand firm. They warn that yielding to demands for elephants at non-state events would erode wildlife protection laws and compromise the welfare of India's most revered animal.

ICC Women's World Cup: Arundhati injured in warm-up game

India's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup campaign has suffered a major setback after pacer Arundhati Reddy was stretchered off during the warm-up clash against England in Bengaluru. Reddy, who had earlier dismissed opener Amy Jones, suffered a freak accident while attempting a return catch from Heather Knight. In her follow-through, she landed awkwardly on her left leg before collapsing in pain. Medical staff rushed onto the field and initially tried to assist her off, but a wheelchair had to be called in. The incident has cast serious doubts over her participation in the upcoming World Cup, leaving India concerned about their pace options. — BMB

Young Taekwondo champ aims for SGFI



Fifteen-year-old Keerthi MS, a Class 10 student of Vidya Sanskaar International Public School, has won the gold medal at the CBSE National Taekwondo Championship, held recently at Amneev Vision School, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh. With this victory, she became the only participant from Karnataka to represent the CBSE Board at the prestigious School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Tournament in Jammu & Kashmir this November.

"I am very happy to bag the gold medal at the CBSE Nationals. I have been practicing eight hours daily. My dream is to win gold at the SGFI Tournament," said Keerthi, brimming with determination. Keerthi began her Taekwondo journey at the age of eight under the guidance of Master Jothimani Markandan and Assistant Coach Harsha R. Over the years, her relentless discipline has translated into an impressive tally of victories—Gold medals at the CBSE South Zone 2 Championships (2022 & 2023), Silver in 2025 CBSE South Zone, Gold at the 40th Karnataka State Taekwondo Championship, and two-time gold in the Khelo India Women's League.

The school community has hailed her as an inspiration. "This is a proud moment not just for our institution but for the entire state," said Shyam Sundar, Secretary, Vidya Sanskaar Group of Institutions. CEO Dr Sathish M. Bejjihalli added that Keerthi's success reflects the rewards of talent, hard work, and support. Coach Jothimani expressed his dream of seeing Keerthi represent India at the Olympics. Principal Sumana Shenoy said her journey motivates peers to dream big and aim high. — BMB

BMTC rakes in moolah with NICE Road ride

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) dedicated bus service along the NICE Road corridor has turned into one of its most successful ventures, delivering both strong ridership and revenue growth. On average, 3.5 lakh passengers travel on these buses every month, with IT professionals forming the bulk of commuters. The service, which has generated consistent revenues of over ₹1 crore per month, touched a record ₹1.46 crore in August 2025, marking a significant milestone in BMTC's revenue history.

Launched on December 23, 2023, in response to demand from the IT corridor, the service connects Electronics City with multiple parts of Bengaluru via NICE Road. Over 60 buses operate 294 trips daily, with services scheduled every 10 minutes from Madavara and other city routes. For many commuters, particularly employees in IT and BT companies, the buses have become a reliable alternative to battling congestion, traffic snarls, and paying steep toll charges.



Ridership has climbed sharply, with over 10,500 people using the service daily, generating nearly ₹5 lakh in revenue each day

Passenger numbers have surged since the service began. From just 62,000 monthly riders in the early months, usage climbed to nearly four lakh within five months. Revenues too have steadily grown, rising from ₹1.39 crore in April 2025 to ₹1.46 crore by August. On average, 10,593 com-

muters use the service daily, contributing ₹4.89 lakh in income. Between July 2024 and August 2025 alone, BMTC earned ₹17.13 crore from this route. Officials also noted that per-kilometre revenue has nearly doubled, from ₹26.1 to ₹58.76, reflecting the efficiency and profitability of this commuter-focused service.

For passengers from towns such as Hassan and Tumakuru, the service has been transformative. Instead of spending additional hours reaching Majestic to board onward buses, they can now directly connect from Madavara to Electronics City, saving both time and money. BMTC has expanded its fleet to meet growing demand, even adding direct services from Tavarekere and exploring more routes for future expansion.

While thousands of employees also rely on the Metro's Yellow Line to access Electronics City, BMTC officials point out that the NICE Road buses remain popular, proving commuters value their flexibility, convenience, affordability, and overall cost-effectiveness. — BMB



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Wipro terms govt traffic proposal unsustainable, calls for expert-led study

Wipro has called the Karnataka government's proposal to open its Sarjapur campus for public vehicular access an 'unsustainable solution' to Bengaluru's traffic congestion along the Outer Ring

Road (ORR). In a formal response to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Founder Chairman Azim Premji said the move poses legal and regulatory challenges and fails to offer a long-term fix. Instead, he urged the government

to commission a scientific, expert-led study to identify viable strategies for the city's mobility issues.

In his letter dated September 24, 2025, Premji appreciated the Chief Minister's attention to the issue but

emphasised that there is no single-point solution. Premji proposed a comprehensive study conducted by a globally experienced urban transport body to chart out implementable solutions. He confirmed Wipro's willingness to participate in this initiative and even underwrite a signifi-

cant portion of the study's cost. On the request to open up the Sarjapur campus for traffic, Premji pointed out that the campus is a private property owned by a listed company and operates as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which comes with strict compliance requirements. **BMB —BMB**

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I Parikshit Chhajjer S/o Sanjay Chhajjer R/o Muneswara Nagar, Bangalore have changed my mother's name from Payal Chhajjer to Payal Jain for all future purposes.

I, Abhirami KS daughter of Santhosh K N and Bindu S B, residing at Sterling Park, Hebbal, Bengaluru, have corrected my name to Abhirami K S for all future purposes.

I, Prithika w/o Botcha Hareesh R/o SJ paramount, Flat 002, No.104, 3rd Cross road, SRR Lyt, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru 560048 have changed my name to Pritika. Affidavit Dt.25/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Maya Naidu D/o Pradeep Naidu R/o #1236,13th Cross,80 Feet Rd, Girinagar 2nd Phase Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to Maya Pradeep.

I, Harina Prakashan Malappilayi D/o Prakash M R/o #2350,7th Main,7th Cross,Vijayanagar, B'lore-560040 have changed my name to Harina Prakashan.

I, Sneha Gajanan Baddi D/o Gajanan S Baddi R/o #868, 23rd main, 11th Av Crs, JP Nagar 2nd Ph, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Snehal Gajanan Baddi. Affidavit Dt.25/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Suraj Sajeev Kumar S/o M. Sajeev Kumar R/o # 24, 11th Cross, Near Govt School, Lakshmi Layout, Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my name to Suraj Sajeev for all purposes.

I, Sumathi M S W/o Sham Prasad M L, # 69 E, 15th Main,near Police Station, Vijayanagar,Bengaluru 560040 have changed my name to Sumathi Shamprasad for all purposes

I Ravi Dattatraya Shekadar S/O, Dattatraya Ravji Shekadar R/o #g01, Block A, Slv Flora Apts, D.c. Halli Main Road, Hongasandra, Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Ravi Shekdar

I, SYED IMDAD HUSAIN WARSI S/o Syed Ismail, residing at No.13/1, 1st Cross, 1 Main, Anandappa Block, Rahmath Nagar, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032,have changed my name to SYED IMDAD HUSSAIN WARSI vide affidavit dated: 24.09.2025 Sworn before notary: A R Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, Shahanaz R/o No 183 4th Main Ramachandrapuram Bangalore 560021 have changed my name to Shahanaz Mansoor Ahmed Khan.

I, Mohamad Rafeeq Tekkil Ebrahim S/o Ebrahim Tekkil Aboobacker, R/o #346, Nalkeri, Virajpet, Kodagu-571252, have changed my name to Mohammed Rafiq Tekkil Ebrahim.

I Haseena Banu, W/o Mohammed Rafiq T E, R/o #346, Nalkeri, Virajpet, Kodagu - 571252 have changed my name Haseena Banu Tekkil Rafiq

I Marie Josephine W/O, Keith King R/o No 27/1, Nandi Hills Road, Mount View Resort, Karahalli Cross, Bengaluru-562110 have changed my name to Marie King.

I, Deepa Pradeep Naidu W/o Pradeep Naidu R/o #1236,13th Cross,80 Feet Rd, Girinagar 2nd Phase Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to Deepa Pradeep.

LOST & FOUND

I, K A Ramachandraiah, R/o Kenchanahalli, Kunigal, Tumkur have lost Original Registered Property Deed, Doc ID No. MGD-1-04801-2012-13, at Magadi, b/w 26.03.2025 to 24.09.2025. I have given police complaint with ref. no. 1818870/2025 in this regard. If found, Please contact on 9886884397.

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Man killed after water tanker rams bike, son escapes with minor injuries

A 52-year-old man was killed while his teenage son had a narrow escape after a speeding water tanker rammed into their bike in Whitefield traffic police limits on Thursday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Muniraj (52), a native of Kolar. His son Dhananjay Gowda (16) sustained minor injuries and survived.

According to police, the accident occurred around 7.45 am when Muniraj was riding towards Immadihalli with his son on the pillion. Near Sai Sunshine

Apartments on Immadihalli Main Road, a water tanker, allegedly driven rashly and at a high speed, hit their bike, throwing both the father and son onto the road. Muniraj suffered severe head and leg injuries.

Passersby rushed him to Vydehi Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries around 9.40 am, while under treatment. Whitefield traffic police have registered a case and initiated further investigation.

CRIME FILES

-BMB

Two arrested for temple thefts, silver worth ₹1 lakh recovered

The Banashankari police have arrested two men for allegedly breaking into temples and stealing silver ornaments and donation boxes. The arrests were made on September 11 near Sarakki Signal, where the duo was caught with a stolen two-wheeler and a five-metal idol.

The case came to light after the head of Vinayak Temple in Banashankari filed a complaint on August 29, stating that the temple locks had been broken and silver ornaments attached to the deity, along with cash from the donation box, were missing.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and revealed that they had sold the stolen ornaments at a jewellery shop in JP Nagar. Acting swiftly, police recovered 744 grams of silver worth about Rs 1 lakh from the shop on September 12.

Both men were produced before court and remanded in judicial custody. Police said the arrests have helped solve two cases, the temple theft under Banashankari police limits and a two-wheeler theft reported in Suddaguntepalya Police Station.

-BMB

Police destroy seized drugs worth ₹5.5 crore

The Bengaluru District Police on Wednesday destroyed narcotics worth nearly Rs 5.5 crore at a sustainable waste management unit in Dabaspur Industrial Area, Nelamangala.

The contraband, including 210.8 kg of marijuana, 2 grams of heroin, 3.3 grams of MDMA and 618 grams of hydro-marijuana, had been seized in multi-

ple cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The disposal was carried out under the supervision of senior officials in accordance with legal procedures. Police said the exercise underscores their zero-tolerance stance towards drug trafficking.

-BMB

Fans slash screen at OG premiere, show halted

Frenzied celebrations around Telugu superstar and Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's comeback film 'They Call Him OG' took a destructive turn in the city on Thursday. During an early morning show in KR Puram, a group of fans slashed the cinema screen with a sword, forcing the theatre management to abruptly stop the screening.

Videos of the incident, which quickly went viral, show fans cheering wildly before a few stormed towards the screen and tore it apart. The sudden chaos left moviegoers shocked and disappointed, though no injuries

were reported. The screening later resumed after theatre officials, with police assistance, managed to bring the situation under control.

The episode has drawn sharp reactions online. While it underlined the frenzy surrounding Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited return, many criticised the behaviour as dangerous and disruptive.

'They Call Him OG', directed by Sujeeth and produced by DVV Entertainment, stars Pawan Kalyan alongside Emraan Hashmi, making his Telugu debut, along with Priyanka Arul Mohan, Arjun Das, Sriya Reddy and Prakash Raj.

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Bike taxi ban: Frame policy in 1 month

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The Karnataka High Court on Thursday indicated it was inclined to stay the State government's ban on bike taxis, noting that no clear policy had been framed despite repeated assurances.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi was hearing appeals by aggregators Rapido, Uber, and Ola against a single judge ruling that barred bike taxi services unless guidelines were notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

"We are inclined to give a full-fledged stay at this stage. We gave one month's time for the government to come up with some policy... nothing is done, and you come up with the Gig Workers Act," the bench observed.

Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty argued that aggregators were defying orders and continuing operations. He maintained that the new Karnataka Gig Workers Act safeguarded riders' interests without requiring registration. The bench, however, clarified that



IN HIGH COURT

while it had not stopped the State from acting against violators, no concrete framework had been provided.

Senior Advocate Dhyani Chinnappa, appearing for individual bike owners, stressed that riders were losing livelihoods in the absence of registration or operational guidelines. "There is no bike stand now, they have not allowed us registration, and if platforms stop supporting us, we will lose income," he said.

The bench scheduled the next hearing for October 15 and said it would attempt to conclude the matter then.

Petitioners flag lapses in tunnel road tender

The High Court on Thursday issued notice to the State government on a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the tender process for the ₹19,000-crore Bangalore Twin Tunnel Road project.

The petition, filed by 82-year-old Dr Adikesavalu Ravindra and others, alleges the tender was rushed despite legal and environmental lapses. A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi sought the government's response but clarified there was no bar on finalising the tender while the case was pending.

The bench listed the matter for detailed hearing on December 9, rejecting requests for an earlier date. "This is a long project; there is no urgency."

The PIL seeks to quash the July 14, 2025, tender notification and related processes, including pre-bid steps, bid evaluation, and award of contracts. It also challenges feasibility and detailed project reports prepared in 2024 and 2025, calling them inconsistent and non-compliant with mandatory standards.

Further, the petitioners dispute a 2024 order of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) that said prior environmental clearance was unnecessary. They have urged the court to halt the tender until a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is conducted and demanded detailed mobility plans, cost disclosures, and utility diversion maps.

-BMB

Are lakes not on GBAs' priority list?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city. However, home guards will continue to provide security," said Preeti Gehlot, special Commissioner (FECC, Elections, Disaster Management, Public Relations and Coordination), Greater Bengaluru Authority.

City-based lake experts have expressed concerns regarding this overhaul.

"Home guard is a trained unit and a force tasked to be an auxiliary to the State police forces, ensuring discipline and accountability of their actions. They also receive training with annual refreshers, along with specialised training in disaster response, traffic management, etc. Security personnel from private security agencies are rarely trained and accountable," said V Ramprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

Bengaluru lakes on back burner

Lake activists say the current state of affairs indicates that Bengaluru's lakes are not the priority of the newly formed corporations. More than 800 home guards deployed at various lakes across the city have been waiting for their duty allowance for the past four months.

Moreover, the last approval to continue deputing home guards between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Home Guard office was from July to September 2025. With just five days to go before the current agreement lapses, no attempt has been made by the respective corporations to renew it.

"Our three-month contract ends on September 30. We have not received any request for renewal from the city corporation offices. Currently, there are 841 home guards deployed at various lakes across the city, but their duty allowance for the last six months is also pending. If the contract is not renewed, postings will stop starting October 1," Director General and Commandant General Office, Home Guards, Karnataka, clarified.

The department also said that officials have met GBA authorities regarding the release of funds for payment of wages. However, no clarity on the timeline has been provided so far.

"After verification with executive engineers, I have come to understand that the duty allowance of home guards has not been paid from June to September. While wages for June were approved, they could not be paid due to the transition from BBMP to GBA. However, there is no question of doing away with the home guard services. We need their services," said Sunil Kumar, commissioner, North City Corporation.

Socio-economic survey can continue: 'Keep it voluntary'

The High Court on Thursday refused to stay the State's ongoing socio-economic survey but directed that participation remain strictly voluntary and the information confidential.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi ordered the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission to issue a notification clarifying that no citizen is bound to share details and that enumera-

tors must inform participants of this at the outset.

The court was hearing petitions challenging the survey, which aims to assess the social and educational status of citizens. Senior Advocate Ravivarma Kumar, for the Commission, argued the exercise only evaluates representation of castes and classes and stressed that disclosure is voluntary.

Opposing counsel raised privacy concerns, citing the Supreme Court's KS

Puttaswamy ruling on informational control, and warned of possible data misuse. The bench clarified that though Aadhaar numbers may be recorded, data would not be linked to Aadhaar databases.

While declining to halt the survey, the judges insisted on strict confidentiality, directed that refusals must be respected, and ordered the Commission to file an affidavit within a day on data security measures.

-BMB

Women drivers revolutionise city transport and livelihoods

Namma Sarathi Trust aims to professionalise auto-rickshaw driving, combining road training with financial, digital and soft skills support

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A group of people have come together to empower women and make transport safe and inclusive for women and families in the city. Their mission is to create sustainable livelihoods for low-income women and to professionalise auto-rickshaw driving through holistic training and support. Their target is to provide training for around 1,000 women within three years in the city.

A collective of civic leaders, auto-

rickshaw pioneers and women's empowerment advocates have come together to establish the Namma Sarathi Trust to transform women's mobility, safety and livelihoods in the city. They said they believe in empowering women beyond basic driving skills, offering financial literacy, basic vehicle maintenance, digital tools (such as cashless payment apps and GPS navigation), counselling and soft skills.

It is reported that around 250 women have received training in driving and are supporting their families. "At present, around 300 women are undergoing driving training. Our target is to train more than 1,000 women by March 2026. The training has been a great help for women who want to become self-reliant," said C Sampath, President of Namma Sarathi Trust.

He added that many women lack the capital to own or lease an auto-rickshaw. "A few people, including Dr Akkshye Tulsyan, have come forward



New trainees gear up to join the city's growing network of women auto-rickshaw drivers

to extend a helping hand to women undergoing driver training. We provide this training free of cost," he said.

Expressing gratitude to those who had helped her, Sumithra Priya from Basaveshwara Nagar said she was very happy to support her aged parents by

“My father used to work as a tailor. Two stents were inserted into his arteries, and he is unable to continue tailoring. The driver training has helped me greatly. I am now able to earn around ₹1,000 per day”

—Sumithra Priya, trainee driver

plying an auto-rickshaw. "My father used to work as a tailor. Two stents were inserted into his arteries, and he is unable to continue tailoring. The driver training has helped me greatly. I am now able to earn around ₹1,000 per day," said Sumithra Priya.

The members aim to reach motivated women from low-income com-

munities through partner non-governmental organisations and grassroots networks. They said the women are trained by certified instructors, with support for RTO processes and licensing. The trust will also conduct workshops on vehicle maintenance, financial management, digital tools and customer service. "I have extended financial assistance to one of the women auto-rickshaw drivers to purchase a vehicle. I want to help more such women in the future," said Dr Tulsyan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Namibia.

Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union General Secretary Rudramurthy has been selected as Vice President of Namma Sarathi Trust. "I have already guided around 70 women auto-rickshaw drivers in obtaining driving licenses at the jurisdictional RTOs in the city. I will continue to assist those who need awareness and guidance in completing the licensing process," Rudramurthy said.

Police plan rowdy sheets to tackle weapons menace

West Division exploring rowdy sheets, externment powers to monitor habitual offenders; DCP stresses surveillance helps curb intimidation and rising street weapon culture

Atiya Firdos
 c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

To clamp down on the rising menace of individuals flaunting weapons in public, Bengaluru police are considering stricter preventive measures, including opening rowdy sheets against those booked under the Arms Act. Officials say the move is aimed at placing habitual offenders under surveillance and deterring others from projecting such behaviour as a badge of pride.

In the West Division, police are specifically assessing the option of opening rowdy sheets against individuals caught flashing machetes, knives, or swords, often while filming reels on social media. Officers note that the trend has given rise to a "rowdy culture," where youngsters and local offenders attempt to portray weapons as "cool," creating fear in public spaces and unhealthy fascination among viewers.

Rowdy sheets are preventive records maintained on individuals with a history of violence or intimidation, enabling police to keep them under close watch. Alongside this, officials are also resorting to externment orders under the CrPC, which bar identified offenders from staying in the city for three to six months. Senior officers said around 12-15 people are externed annually in each sub-division, but stricter enforcement is now being considered following a directive from the Commissioner of Police.

"We are assessing the idea of opening rowdy sheets on such people. Notices will be served first, and individuals will get a chance to explain themselves. If the explanation is valid, especially in domestic disputes where arms are involved, we will consider the con-



Deputy Commissioner of Police emphasises stricter enforcement against public weapon display

text. But if it is about creating nuisance or intimidating the public, we will open the sheet," a senior West Division police official told BM.

Girish S, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), West Division, explained that the decision would depend on the nature of the case. "In Arms Act cases, we usually open a history sheet, but not if it involves minors or domestic disputes. However, if someone repeatedly creates nuisance in public or threatens others with weapons, then a

Each individual booked for brandishing machetes and indulging in rowdy behaviour has been warned that a rowdy sheet may be opened if they continue criminal activities or incite riots

—Senior official, West Division Police

rowdy sheet will certainly be opened. This helps us keep surveillance on such offenders," he said.

Commissioner's Directive

The Commissioner of Police has issued strict instructions to all divisions to curb the growing menace of individuals flashing machetes, knives, and swords in public or on social media reels. Acting on this directive, the West Division is now assessing the option of opening rowdy sheets and using externment powers against such offenders to bring them under tighter control.

"Though this has been the case always, it will be made stricter considering the Commissioner's direction to reduce such menace. The West Division is planning to assess opening rowdy sheets on such people and externing them too," a senior police official said, adding that enforcement also depends on local, geographical, and cultural factors that differ from place to place.

Recently, the West Division prepared a list of individuals booked for brandishing machetes and indulging in rowdy behaviour, even as part of reels. Each has been warned that a rowdy sheet may be opened if they continue criminal activities or incite riots. The fresh move follows a special drive against rowdies, during which two cases were booked, including one under the Arms Act at Basaveshwaranagar police station.



SOCIALTATTLE



THAT WENT VIRAL
 Fans' frenzy at KR Puram theatre ends in chaos as sword damages screen; show halted, no injuries reported. A post on Reddit's r/Bengaluru by user Sscore_loser.

WHAT'S TWEETING?

1 @nandeesh_rai writes about a cable peril on Domlur flyover: Overhanging OFC cables from Domlur flyover to EGL exit inner ring road are damaging streetlights & poles. Danger to pedestrians as well. Such violations are everywhere—who'll bell the cat? #Bengaluru #UrbanMess @ICCCBengaluru @GBA_office @GBAChiefComm @DKShivakumar #roadsafety



2 Pertinent point by @iam_yash_2112 showing the contrast between tech parks and the city roads: Life inside techpark is so different than what we live in city. I wish our city roads could be this clean and were maintained. #corporatelife #office #bengaluru #Traffic

BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

@WLTRecommends wants to know who to approach to clear footpath encroachments.

Hi @ICCCBengaluru @comm_blr_south @GBA_office What's the new process of raising these complaints of footpath encroachment in Bangalore? @BangaloreMirror @blrcitytraffic



IN BRIEF

Cooperative autonomy at risk after amendments

The recent amendments to the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act and the Karnataka Souharda Cooperative Act, effective from September 12, have sparked strong opposition from stakeholders, who allege the changes increase government interference and carry political overtones.

Nearly 20 amendments were introduced, including fixed numbers for board members, mandatory nomination of SC/ST and general category representatives by the government, compulsory annual asset declarations by directors, and yearly audits conducted by government-appointed auditors. With rules yet to be framed, cooperatives whose governing body terms expired after September 12 cannot hold elections until fresh regulations are notified. Drafting, inviting objections, and gubernatorial approval are expected to take at least two months, leaving many institutions in limbo. The delay has forced cooperatives into a precarious "in-between" situation, waiting for clarity while fears of deepening government intervention remain unresolved. —BMB

State expands school ragi mix in milk scheme

The Karnataka government has expanded its nutrition programme by directing government and aided schools to serve hot milk mixed with ragi health mix powder to students of Classes 1 to 10, five days a week. Earlier, under the "Ksheera Bhagya" scheme, milk was provided thrice a week with ragi mix. A fresh agreement has been signed

with a trust, earmarking 100 crore for the scheme, with the state covering 25% of the cost. The Karnataka Milk Federation will manage distribution at the district level, with ragi mix priced at 182.50 per kg. Each child will receive 150 ml of hot milk blended with 5 grams of ragi mix powder daily, strengthening nutrition outreach. —BMB

Caste survey duties trigger BESCO billing mess

Thousands of households were left fuming after BESCO meter readings were delayed 5-10 days due to staff being tied up with caste survey duties. Bills, generated for 35-40 days instead of the usual 30, pushed many families above the 200-unit cap for the Gruhajyoti free electric-

ity scheme, forcing them to pay in full despite normally receiving a zero bill. Residents slammed the delay, saying they shouldn't suffer for administrative lapses. BESCO acknowledged the manpower diversion, while calls grow for compensation and stricter monitoring. —BMB

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Good things in small packages

B-Town actresses who made a big impact with small roles



Sushmita Sen
as Miss Chandni –
Main Hoon Na

She played the stylish chemistry teacher who barely had lines, but her grace, sari swag, and commanding presence made her unforgettable. Fans still gush over “Tumhe jo maine dekha...”—because of her.

Divya Dutta in
Veer-Zaara

As Shabbo, Zaara's best friend, Divya Dutta gave one of her most tender performances. Loyal, witty, and quietly courageous. She added a layer of warmth to an intense love story.



Shefali Shah as Sumitra Thakur – Satya

She had limited screen time, but her role as Bhiku Mhatre's wife brought emotional weight and realism to a gritty crime saga. She balanced toughness and vulnerability so naturally, you felt for her instantly.



Reema Lagoo – The Eternal Mother of the 90s

Whether it was ‘Maine Pyar Kiya’, ‘Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!’, or ‘Vaastav’, Reema Lagoo had the uncanny ability to make you cry, smile, and feel safe—all at once. As the loving, sometimes stern, always supportive mother figure, she was the emotional anchor in countless films.



Lillete Dubey as Jaswinder “Jazz” – Kal Ho Naa Ho

As Naina's glamorous yet broken mother, Lillete Dubey infused the film with layers of vulnerability, sass, and strength. Her scenes with Shah Rukh Khan brought both laughs and tears.

—ETimes

Emma Watson speaks up on trans rights, JK Rowling



English actress Emma Watson has spoken up on JK Rowling, the author of the famed ‘Harry Potter’ franchise. The actress, who is on an acting sabbatical, has said that she doesn't want to see JK Rowling “cancelled”, reports ‘Female First UK’.

The 35-year-old actress has faced criticism from the ‘Harry Potter’ author for her advocacy for the trans community but Emma has insisted that just because they have different opinions, doesn't mean she still doesn't “treasure” the 60-year-old writer and her memories of their interactions when she was younger.

Speaking to Jay Shetty on the On Purpose podcast, she said, “I don't believe that by having had that experience and holding the love and support and views that I have, mean that I can't and don't treasure Jo and the person that I, that I had personal experiences with. I will never believe that one negates the other and that my experience of that person, I don't get to keep and cherish, to come back to our earlier thing”.

She further mentioned, “Like I just don't think these things are either or. I think it's my deepest wish that I, I hope people who don't agree with my opinion will love me and I hope I can keep loving people who I don't necessarily share the same opinion with. I guess where I've landed it, it's not so much what we say or what we believe, it's how we say it. I just see this world right now where we seem to be giving permission to this throwing out of people, or that people are disposable...”

—IANS



Second outing

Director Rakshith Thirithahalli and producer Adarsh Iyengar, known for much-acclaimed movie Thimmana Mottegalu, have joined hands once again. Thirithahalli is handling the megaphone for Moda Male Maththu Shaila, bankrolled by Adarsh Iyengar under the Srikrishna Productions banner.

Akshatha Pandavapura plays a key role in this woman-oriented movie with cast including Gopalakrishna Deshpande,



Sampath Maithreya, Utpal Gowda, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Bala Rajwadi.

Thirithahalli said the movie's shooting was wrapped up recently and the post-production works are in progress. “Adarsh Iyengar agreed to bankroll this movie when I narrated the script to him. The shooting of the movie was held in the rain in Thirithahalli and Kundapura.

We opted for a sync sound method. It is an artistes' movie. It is a drama and thriller. It is my fourth movie as a director,” he said.

Akshatha called Moda Male Maththu Shaila a special movie and said that she plays the role of Shaila. “I do not know whether I will get a chance to play such a character in the future. The director worked hard. Rain is one of the characters in the movie. I am waiting to watch this movie at the theater,” she said.

Sagar HG has worked behind the camera while Akshaya P Rao is the editor.

Know your star

Here is good news for hardcore fans of Action Prince Dhruva Sarja. Fans can know their favourite star's cinematic and personal journey through the specially-designed programme – Dhruva Dasara. The programme is set to air on Udaya TV on September 27.

The programme was filmed on a grand set with many Sandalwood personalities. It showcases Dhruva Sarja's childhood memories and his

journey in Sandalwood. It is said special guests with whom Dhruva Sarja shared interesting stories and incidents of his life are a highlight. The programme sheds light on the simplicity of Dhruva Sarja who states that he does not want to seek the title of a superstar but prefers to be considered an actor. Dhruva Sarja's better half Prerana also



entered the stage, and it was a big surprise for Dhruva Sarja as she doesn't step into the spotlight otherwise. Maghana Raj, the sister-in-law of Dhruva Sarja, also surprised him on stage and shared playful stories of Dhruva with her son Rayan. A pre-birthday cake-cutting, with Meghana Raj's son Rayan and Dhruva Sarja's daughter Rudrakshi – was held on the occasion.

Dhruva Sarja also remembered his mentors Gauri Dattu and Mahantesh.



MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Foods for weight loss

Oats

Rich in fibre, Oats are low in calories. It helps to keep you full for a longer time thereby reducing unnecessary snacking and cravings throughout the day. They also keep a check on the blood sugar levels.

Green Leafy Vegetables

The fresh green leafy veggies such as spinach, methi, and amaranth are low in calories but high in fibre, iron, and water content. It helps you feel full and nourished without overeating. They're also packed with antioxidants that support fat metabolism and hormonal balance.

Eggs

Eggs are a protein powerhouse that promote satiety, preserve muscle during weight loss, and help curb cravings. They're versatile and can be enjoyed boiled, poached, or as an omelette loaded with veggies.

Greek Yogurt (Hung Curd)

Greek yogurt is high in protein and probiotics, improves gut health and keeps your hunger in check. Choose unsweetened plain yogurt, preferably homemade for best results.

Nuts and Seeds

A bowl of almonds, walnuts, chia, and flax seeds contains healthy fats and fibre. Begin your mornings with a handful of these nuts that supports metabolism and prevents binge eating. They also help manage insulin sensitivity and keep energy levels stable.

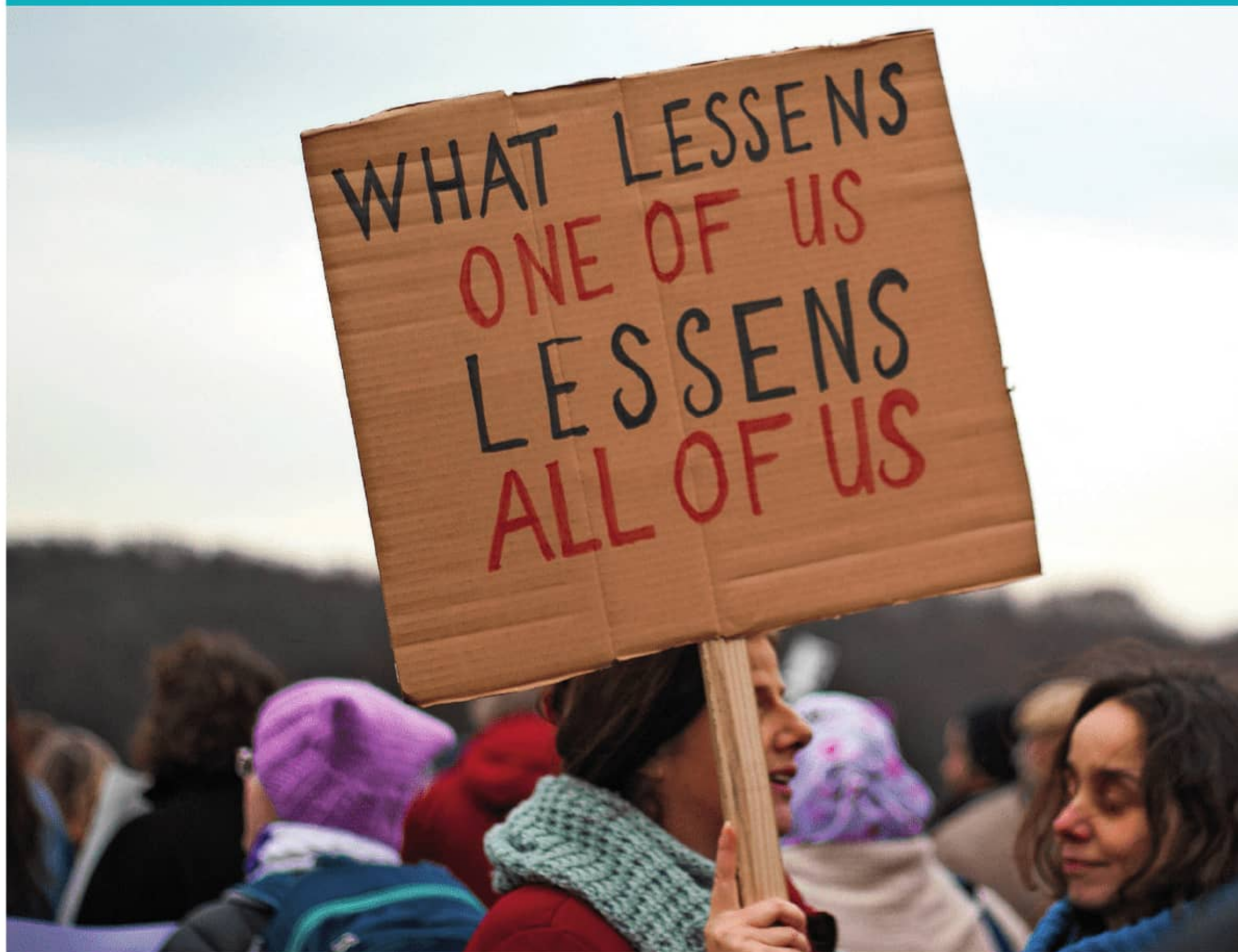
Whole Fruits

Fruits like apples, pears and berries are rich in antioxidants and fibre, thereby aids digestion and reduces piling up of fat in the body. They're naturally sweet and satisfy sugar cravings. Consume it as a whole fruit instead of making juices. They also keep the body hydrated and offer essential vitamins that support metabolism.

—Femina

THE SCIENCE OF DEFIANCE

Psychology researcher explains why people comply – and how to resist



You're in a meeting when your boss suggests changing a number to make the quarterly report look stronger. Heads nod. The slides move on. You feel a knot in your stomach: Do you speak up and risk being branded difficult, or stay silent and become complicit?

Most people picture defiance as dramatic outbursts. In reality, it's often these small, tense moments where conscience collides with compliance.

I first saw the power of defiance not in the workplace, but closer to home. My mother was the ultimate people-pleaser: timid, polite, eager to accommodate. Barely 4 feet, 10 inches tall, she put everyone else's needs above her own. But one day, when I was 7, I saw a different side to her.

We were walking home from the grocery store in West Yorkshire, England, when a group of teenage boys blocked our path in a narrow alleyway. They hurled racist insults and told us to "go back home."

My reaction was instantaneous: Stay quiet, avoid conflict and get past them as quickly as possible. I grabbed my mother's arm, urging her to move with me. But she didn't. My quiet, deferential, never-confrontational mother did something completely different. She stopped, turned and

looked the boys directly in the eyes. Then she asked, calmly but firmly, "What do you mean?"

She wasn't loud or aggressive. And in that moment, she showed me that defiance doesn't always roar, and it can come from the people you least expect.

I've carried these lessons into my work as a physician-turned-organisational psychologist. For decades, I've studied why people comply, staying silent when they don't want to, and how they can resist wisely. In my book "Defy: The Power of No in a World that Demands Yes," I offer a framework based on behavioral science research that can help you defy in ways that are intentional, effective and true to your values.

What defiance really is

When people think of defiance, they often picture teenagers slamming doors, protesters shouting in the streets or rebels breaking rules just for the thrill of it. But that's not the kind of defiance I study or the kind that shapes our lives most often.

Defiance is not about being oppositional for its own sake. It's about choosing to act in line with your values when there is pressure to do otherwise.

That pressure can come from anywhere: a boss urging you to fudge the numbers, a friend nudging you toward something you don't believe in, a culture

telling you to stay in your place. Defiance in those moments might be as small as saying "no," asking for clarification or simply pausing instead of rushing along with the group. Other times, it means speaking up, challenging authority or maybe walking away.

Seen this way, defiance isn't a fixed trait that some people are born with and others lack. It's a practice: a skill you can strengthen over time. Some days you might comply, other days you might resist. What matters is that you have the awareness and the tools to make the choice consciously, rather than letting fear or habit decide for you.

Why people comply

If defiance is so important, why do people so often stay silent?

One reason is a psychological process I've uncovered in my research: insinuation anxiety. It

arises when people worry that not complying with another person's wishes may be interpreted as a signal of distrust. Turning down a boss's request to "adjust" the numbers might feel like you're implying they're dishonest. To avoid that discomfort, you go along – even when it violates your values.

Behavioral science has long documented this pull toward compliance. In the 1960s, for example, psychologist Stanley Milgram showed that ordinary people would administer what they believed were dangerous electric shocks to strangers simply because an authority figure told them to.

My own research has shown surprisingly high levels of compliance with obviously bad advice, even when given by a stranger with no consequences for disagreeing. People feel immense social pressure to go along with what others suggest. That's because if you've never been trained in how to say no, it feels uncomfortable and awkward.

A framework for action

If compliance is the human default, how can you build the muscle of defiance? In my research, I've developed a simple actionable guide that I call the Defiance Compass. Like a navigation aid, it orients you in difficult situations by asking three questions:

- Who am I? What are the core values that matter most to me?
- What type of situation is this? Is it safe to resist? Will it have a positive impact?
- What does a person like me do in a situation like this? How can I take responsibility and act in a way that's consistent with my identity and values?

Asking these questions shifts defiance from a gut reaction to a conscious practice. And here's what's important: That third question ("What does a person like me do?") circles back to the first ("Who am I?"), because how you act again and again becomes who you are.

Defiance doesn't always mean open confrontation. Sometimes it means asking a clarifying question, buying time or quietly refusing. It can mean speaking up or walking away. The key is to start small, practice regularly and anchor your choices in your values. Like any skill, the more you practice, the more natural it becomes.

Sunita Sah, Cornell University, *The Conversation*

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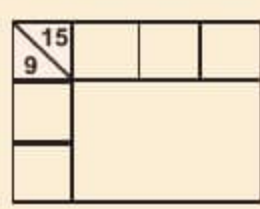
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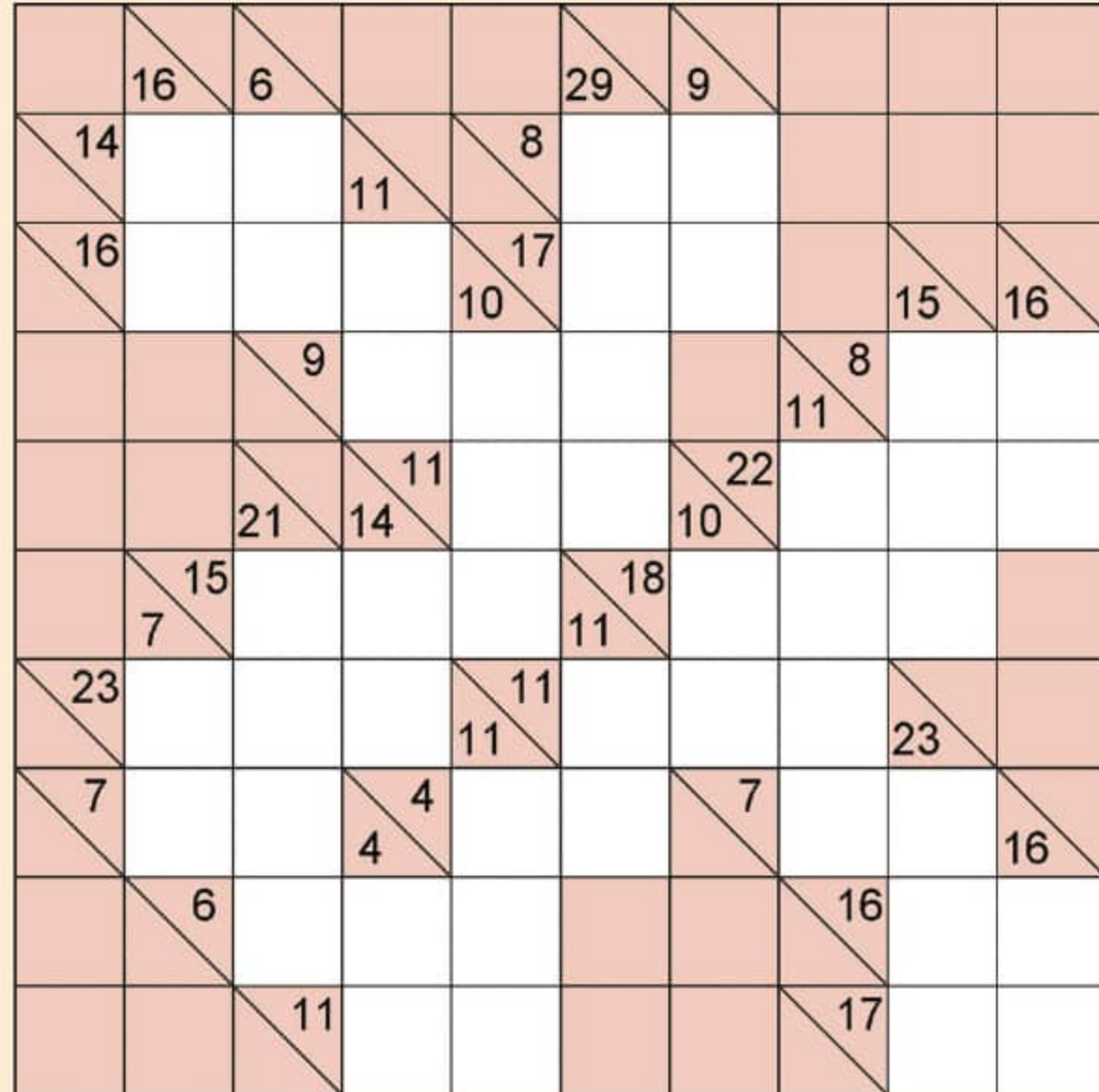
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

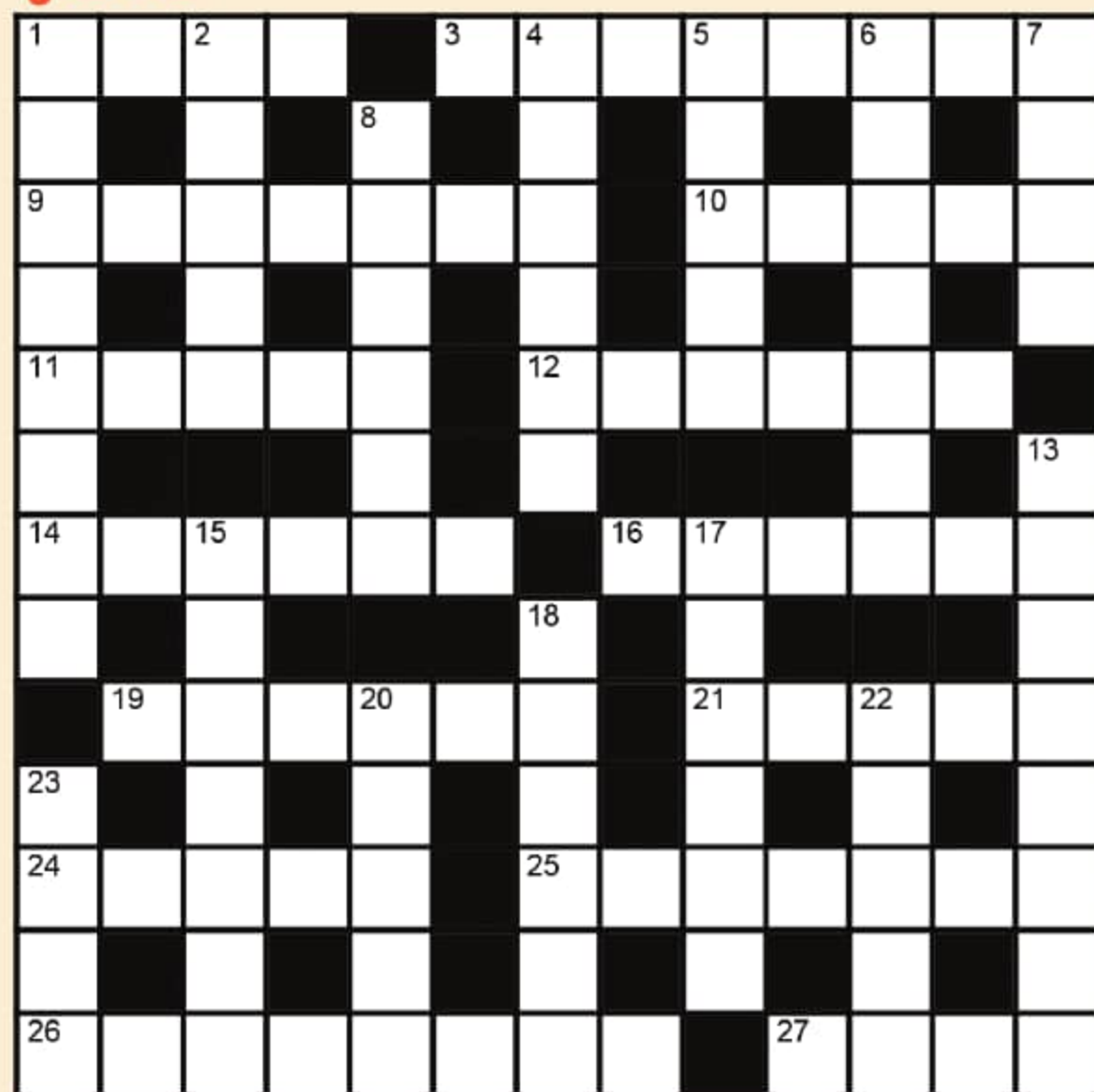


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Hurtful remark (4)
- 3 Uncomplimentary remark? (8)
- 9 Brusque; casual (7)
- 10 Wet (of weather) (5)
- 11 Gather facts bit by bit (5)
- 12 Offhand (6)
- 14 A false or assumed name (6)
- 16 Running water (6)
- 19 Artist's workshop (6)
- 21 Choice of roads (5)
- 24 1857's ___ mutiny (5)
- 25 A small naval vessel (7)
- 26 Neatness (8)
- 27 New Zealand parrots (4)

DOWN

- 1 One-horse carriage (8)
- 2 Firearm (5)
- 4 Decrease (6)
- 5 Strings or thin ropes (5)
- 6 Turn "a bridge" around to get a popular road (7)
- 7 Playthings (4)
- 8 Loudspeaker system (6)
- 13 Instruments for measuring electrical current strength (8)
- 15 Eight-armed mollusc (7)
- 17 Royal seat (6)
- 18 Principal sum (6)
- 20 Senior member of a group (5)
- 22 Employment (5)
- 23 Call to attract attention (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS I
PJ YWW SRJ. QBJ ADYW RGF'Q
QD WRLJ TDHJLJH, QBJ ADYW
RG QD ZHJYQJ GDKJQBRFA
QBYQ PRWW.



Linemaro

Do you believe in helping the homeless? Take me home with you



Mindchow

Present fears are less than horrible imaginings



Joke of the day

Only in New York can you get, at three o'clock in the morning, truck tires, falafel and a bag of heroin - in the same store

Loop

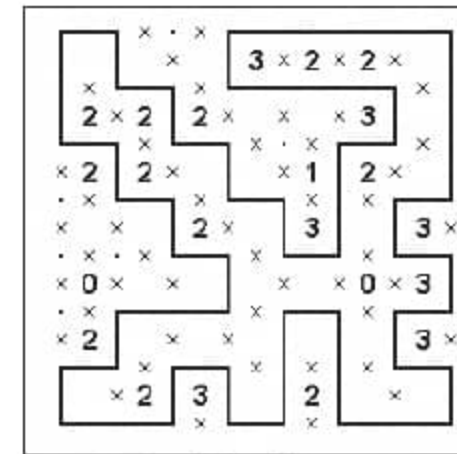
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

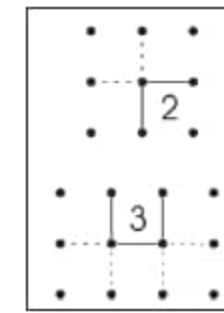
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

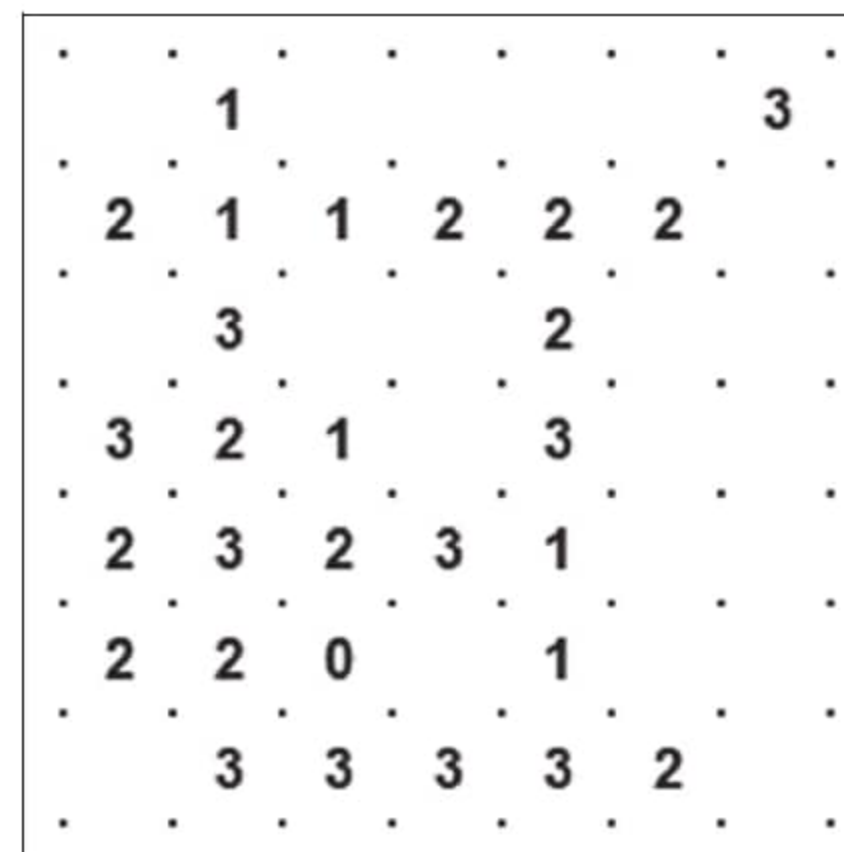
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



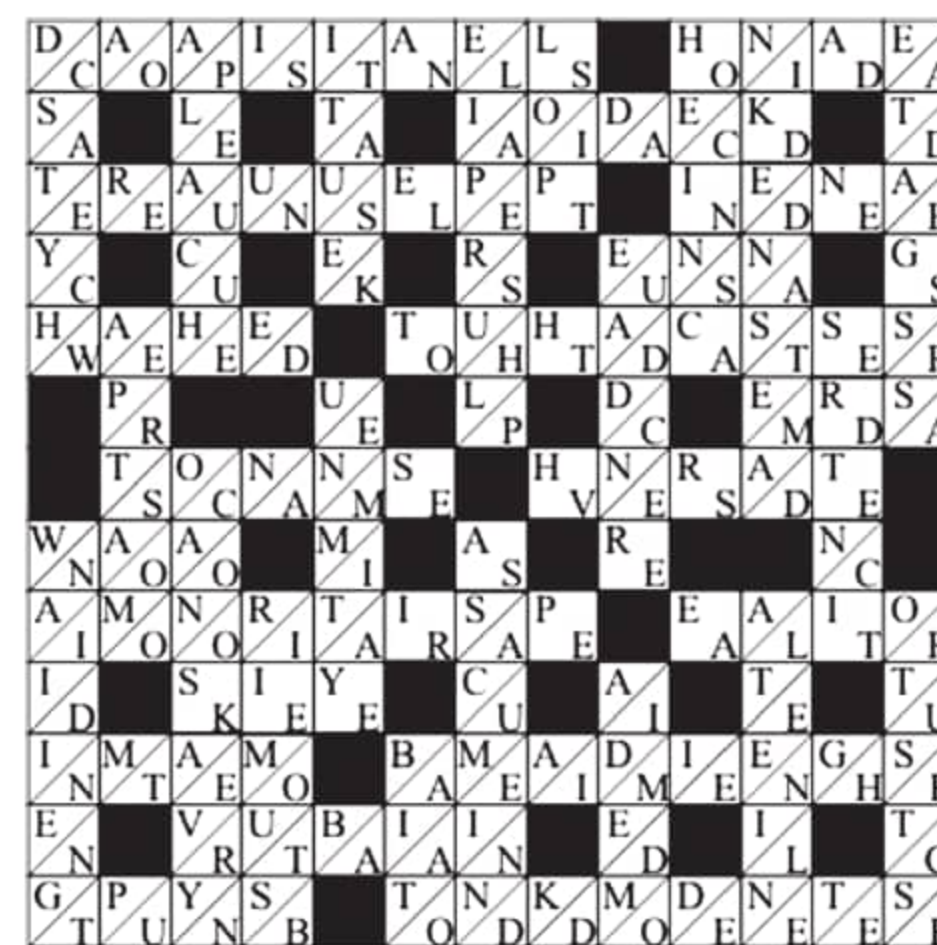
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



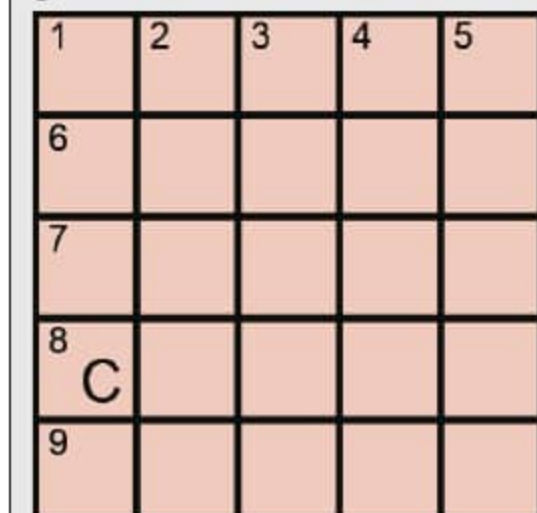
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

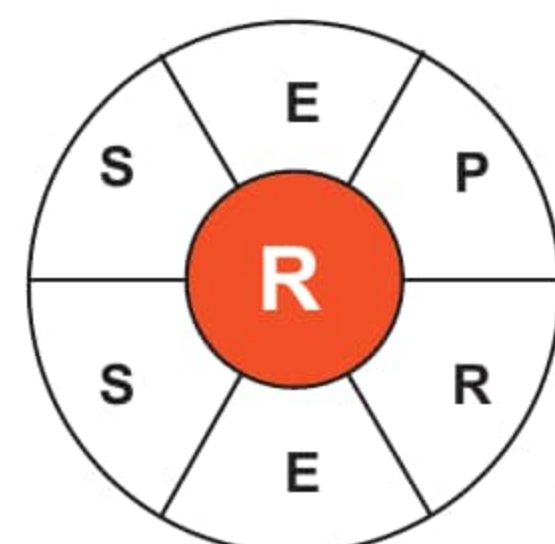
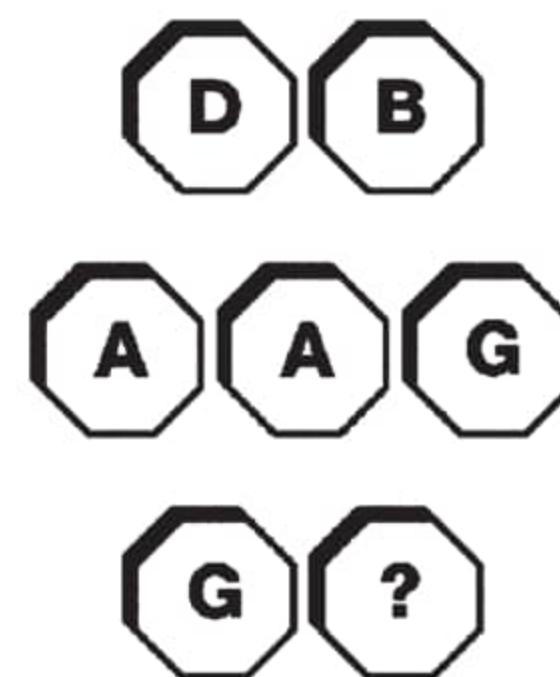
- 1 Curse; 6 Tiny L;
- 7 Rates; 8 Chain;
- 9 So ilk

DOWN

- 1 Lack C; 2 Irish;
- 3 Unlit; 4 Tones;
- 5 Years

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 18$

$\square \square \square \square = 27$

Medium

$\square \square \square \square = 10$

Hard

$\square \square \square \square = 10$

$\square \square \square \square = 10$

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Button is smaller. 2. Pad is longer. 3. Chair is missing. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Blinds are different. 6. Window is added to building.

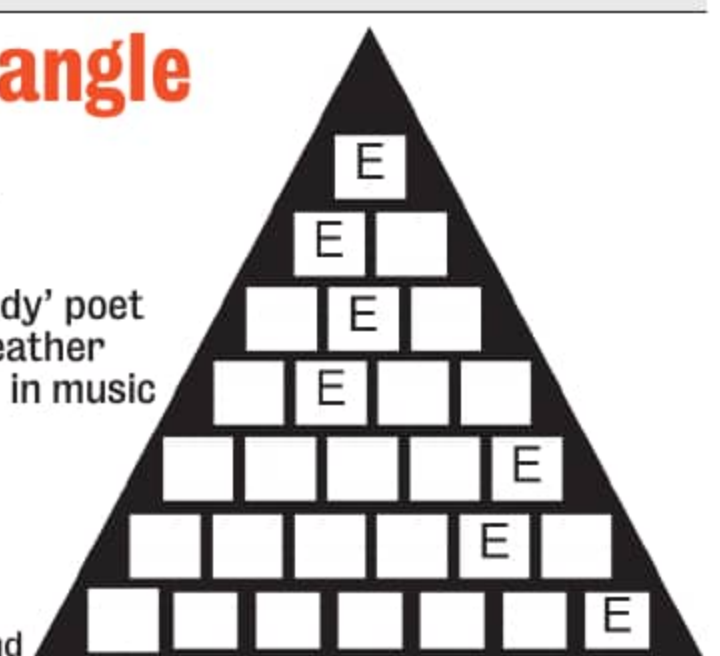
Riddler

Can you figure out this brainbat? gges egsg segg esgg

Alpha triangle

- 1 Second vowel
- 2 Editor, abbr.
- 3 Thieves' hangout
- 4 College official
- 5 'The Divine Comedy' poet
- 6 Converted into leather
- 7 Moderately slow, in music

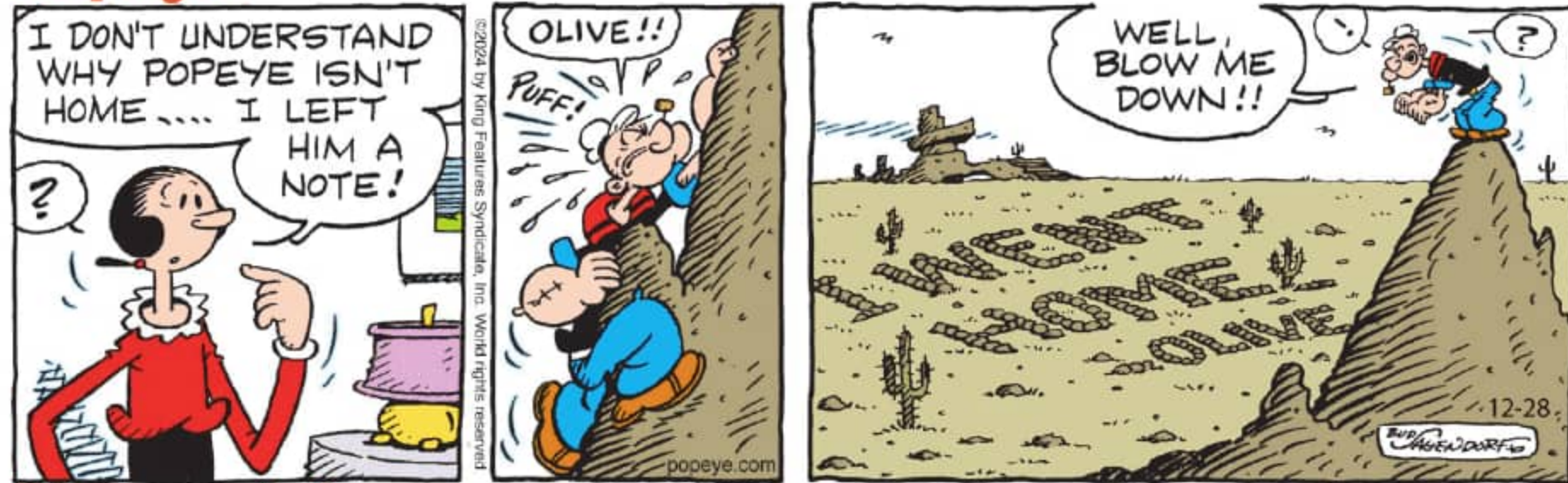
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



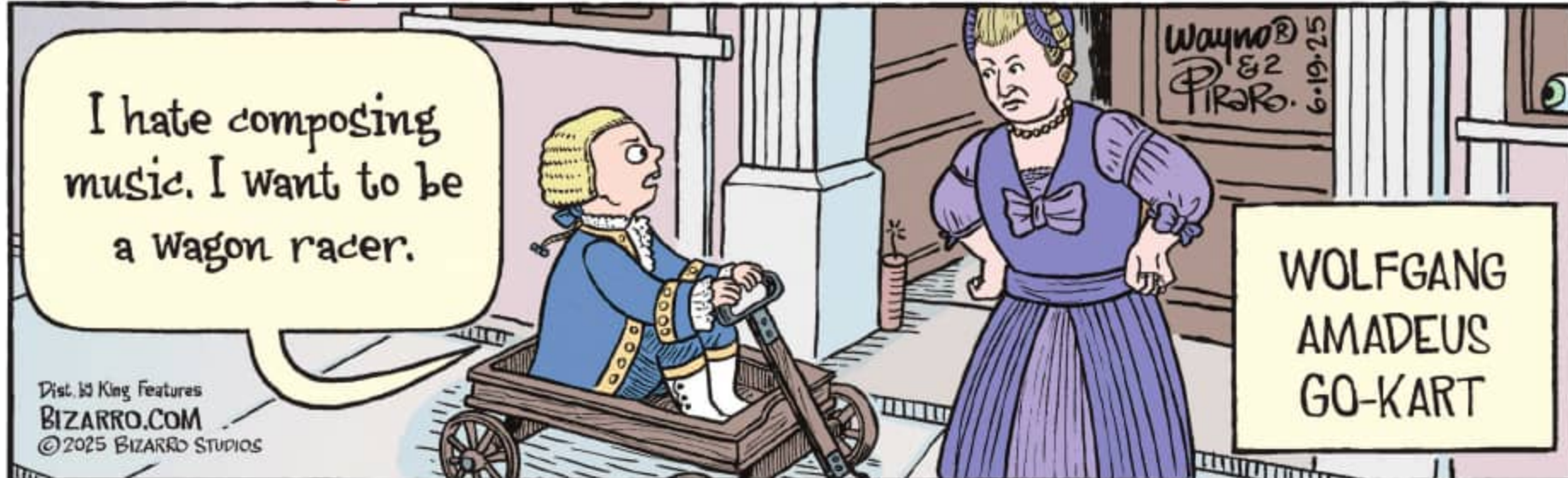
made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

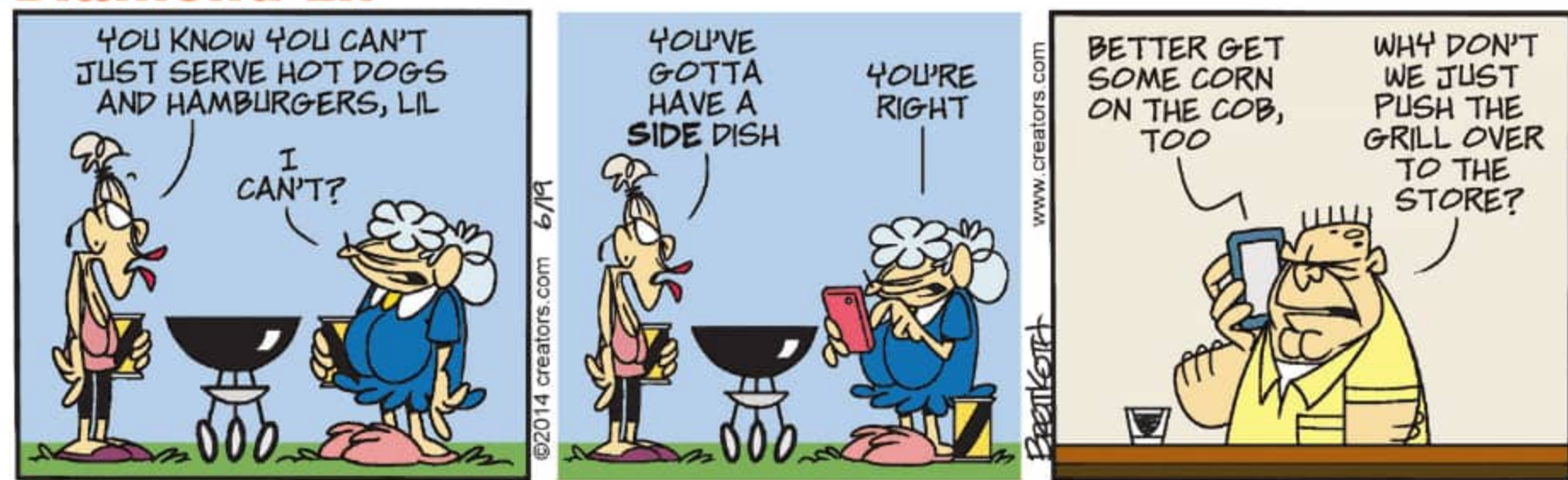
Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft

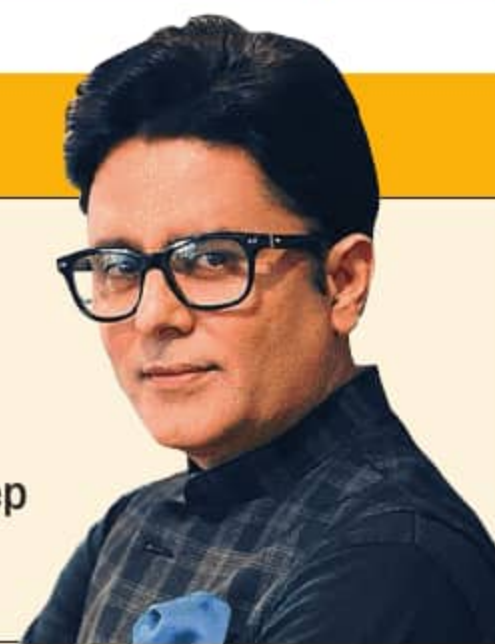


Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

This birthday marks a turning point. Finances grow with practical strategies and discipline. Career advancement awaits when you show initiative and persistence. Love flourishes through shared goals and empathy. Luck favors meaningful collaborations. Tip: Stay grounded, practicing mindfulness will keep you focused, helping you navigate challenges with clarity and make wise, future-oriented decisions all year.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Confidence fuels success, take decisive steps toward your ambitions. Your boldness inspires those around you, attracting support and creating opportunities that accelerate progress toward personal and professional achievements.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Recognition of your efforts arrives, embrace it confidently. Use this validation as motivation to pursue new challenges that align with your passions and take you closer to your long-term aspirations.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Adventure refreshes your spirit. Explore new activities, learning opportunities, or environments that bring excitement and inspire you to pursue meaningful experiences that align with your adventurous heart.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Seek peace through simple pleasures. Cooking, reading, or quiet time restores your emotional balance, giving you the strength to approach upcoming challenges with patience and grounded energy.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Simplify tasks to ease your workload. Focus on essentials and let go of distractions, restoring balance and making room for creative endeavors that bring you joy and satisfaction.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Consistency creates success. Dedicate yourself to your goals with patience and determination, knowing that every step you take today builds a stronger foundation for the future you're working hard to create.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Your communication skills shine, share ideas that inspire collaboration. Networking today brings connections that expand your opportunities, helping you create meaningful progress in your personal and professional pursuits.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Express your appreciation through thoughtful gestures. Acts of kindness nurture harmony in relationships, deepening emotional connections and creating joy within your closest personal and professional circles.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Collaborations inspire progress, work closely with supportive people who share your vision. These partnerships turn innovative ideas into achievable plans, bringing meaningful accomplishments within reach for everyone involved.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Emotional honesty strengthens bonds. Speak openly about your needs, inviting deeper understanding and creating harmony in your relationships. This vulnerability builds lasting trust with the people who matter most.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Transformation empowers you, welcome these changes with courage. They're leading to breakthroughs that align with your personal growth, helping you move toward greater fulfillment and purpose in all areas of life.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Introspection provides clarity. Take time to meditate or reflect, connecting deeply with your emotions and intuition. This inner stillness helps you make thoughtful, heart-centered decisions for the future.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



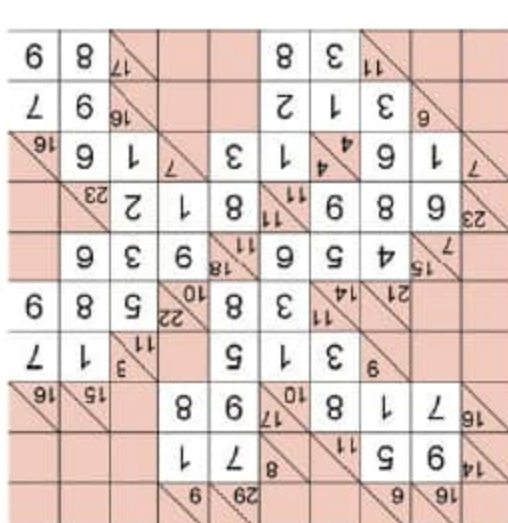
Shubam, Bengaluru



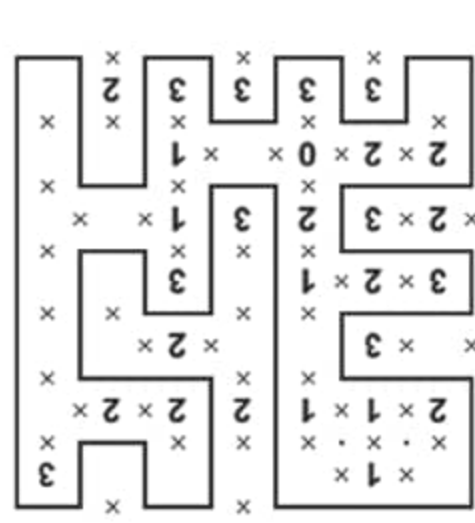
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SOLUTIONS



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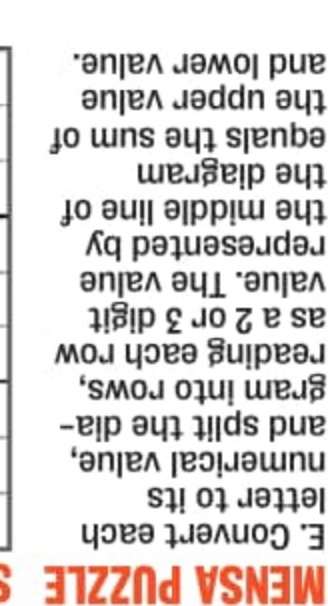
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

RING IN THE NEW

When To Replace Common Kitchen Appliances And What To Keep In Mind



Like life, every kitchen item also shows the signs of wear, tear and age. For most home appliances, the ageing visibly reflects in their exteriors, while some suddenly break down, leaving a sharp dent in your budget. While most large appliances like refrigerator, washing machine, dishwasher, etc. are expected to have long, healthy life, smaller appliances like mixer grinder, microwave, toasters, among others also have some durable goods in life. However, the health and longevity of kitchen appliances majorly depend on how well you use them and how you take care of them.

Doing regular clean-ups, maintenance and fair usage can lead to durable life of these home appliances, but sometimes, they start acting up much before their considered universal lifespan. While getting them fixed or getting a part or two replaced is a common thing that most opt for, but we do need to ask for an upgrade for ourselves time and again. It should also be considered whether the appliance has lived its life and can turn out to be a faulty investment in future.

This is why we've broken down on know-how's, durability, usage and importance of kitchen appliances that make your house and living better every day.

When To Replace Kitchen Appliances

Always remember that if the appliance has lived half of its life happily, and if repair cost turns out to be more than the worth, you should consider a replacement with an upgrade with a little more investment.

Never forget the value of a warranty. The warranty period of all home appliances varies from months to years, and from the range of things it covers (and doesn't). When considering a replacement of home appliances,

check how much of the warranty is left and if it covers the damaged aspect of your white goods.

Home appliances become a part of how your house looks and feels. However, do not wait for your device to reach its deathbed before considering a replacement. You know you need an upgrade if you're spending more and frequently on repair and restoration than EMIs of a new product.

When To Replace Dishwasher

As per major estimates, dishwashers are believed to have an average lifespan of nine years. However, if you notice the listed signs, it's time to consider an upgrade. Consider getting an energy-efficient model.

- Faulty water temperature
- Rust pieces in the tub
- Clogging of garbage disposal
- Noisy wash cycle
- Door latch issues
- Jamming of the food chopping blade
- Leakage after every cycle
- Water drainage issue
- Cracks, dents and other noticeable sign of damage
- Dishes come out dirty and unclean

When To Replace Cooking Range

Your cooking range or stove needs regular maintenance and fix-ups, as anything could lead to a fire hazard. If these are the things you've noticed, invest in an energy-efficient, newer model.

- Cracked ceramic top
- Inconsistent heat or lack of heat from the oven's gasket
- Switches get stuck up or broken switch
- Malfunctions in the control panel
- Damaged pipes
- Smelling gas

- Non-functional burners
- Uneven cooking of food

When To Replace Microwave

While microwave was considered to be a secondary cooking device until a few years ago, with its space-efficient and easy-to-cook meal features has made it one of the most used items, especially during the lockdown period. While the average age of a microwave is deemed to be 5-8 years, these bad signs need to be noticed and acted upon. Read below:

- Loud noises while in use
- Loud buzzing noise on baking/cooking mode
- Longer cook time than usual
- Door switch problems
- Touchpad not working

Important Things To Know Before Buying New Kitchen Appliances

- Don't wait for your kitchen appliances to breathe its last before buying a replacement.
- Set a budget and try finding a durable product that includes whatever you need for your home.
- Avoid overspending, but if you're getting something that fits your preference, investing in a good appliance helps in the long run. Consider all possibilities before making the decision.
- Make sure you have specifications and size in mind for your white goods. If the size of the consumer durable product doesn't fit where you want it to be, it can affect the whole interior of your home.

-Femina


KAFF
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on purchase of any appliance/s worth ₹ 14,990/- or above

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